UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
49th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 28 November 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 49th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.49
3 December 1990

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.2/45/L.49)

Draft resolution on international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (A/C.2/45/L.49)

1. Mr. KRAVCHENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), introducing the draft resolution, said that Barbados, Gabon, Haiti and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors. Efforts had been made to prepare a text conducive to consensus adoption, since the concerted efforts of the entire international community were required to address and mitigate the devastating consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The draft resolution had been formulated on the basis of the Secretary-General's report, the conclusions reached by international missions to the affected regions and the views expressed in the informal consultations. He stressed the need for improved co-ordination of ongoing international efforts to study and minimize the consequences of Chernobyl and for a programme, with a clearly specified time-fram for co-ordinating the appropriate activities of the United Nations system. He also drew attention to the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 5 and expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

2. Mr. YAVORIVSKY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that now that debate on the subject had been concluded, it was essential that the decisions reached should be translated into practical action. It was encouraging that the draft resolution had been sponsored by so many countries.

3. The time had come to abandon the stereotyped view of disasters, since the problems posed by the Chernobyl accident were unique. Some semblance of normal life could resume almost immediately in areas hit by even the most severe earthquakes and other natural disasters, while the consequences of Chernobyl would be felt for thousands of years. The disaster had struck when the Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Russian republics were undergoing a profound economic and social crisis and endeavouring to attain economic and political sovereignty. As a result, mankind was now facing a major challenge.

4. The Ukraine was not seeking massive financial inflows from the United Nations, although its rehabilitation efforts would be severely handicapped without substantial financial assistance, but it wanted the international community to be fully informed about the horrific consequences of the Chernobyl accident, the details about which had been systematically concealed over the previous four years by the totalitarian régime in the USSR. The genetic survival of three Slavic races - Ukrainians, Byelorussians and Russians - had been placed in jeopardy and there was a real danger that Byelorussians and Ukrainians born in the twenty-first century would be affected by genetic mutations.

5. He proposed that an independent and highly competent commission should be set up to ascertain and disseminate throughout the world the full truth about Chernobyl. He welcomed the text of the draft resolution for its clarity and

(Mr. Yavorivsky, Ukrainian SSR)

realism and hoped that all its provisions would be fully implemented. The new, democratically elected Ukrainian parliament would be apprised of the draft resolution at its first session. In conclusion, he commended the Committee on its decision to include the item in the agenda for the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

6. Mr. PAWLAK (Poland) said that the draft resolution was evidence of a spirit of humanitarian concern and international solidarity. He stressed that the provisions of paragraph 2 should apply to all affected areas, irrespective of where they were situated, and noted that the health and life expectancy of many Polish citizens had been impaired by the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and that large tracts of arable land in Poland had been severely contaminated. It was also essential for the task force referred to in paragraph 1 (c) to have an open character and to examine affected areas in all countries, and for radiation levels to be continuously monitored in all affected areas. On the understanding that the draft resolution applied equally to Poland, he requested that Poland should be added to the list of sponsors.

Draft resolutions on prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (A/C.2/45/L.25 and L.51)

7. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.51, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.25 and said that the Philippines, Singapore and the United States of America had joined as sponsors. He recommended it for adoption by consensus.

8. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.51 was adopted.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.51, he would take it that draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.25 was withdrawn.

10. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 79: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(c) REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolution on the inclusion of Namibia in the list of least developed countries (A/C.2/45/L.54)

Draft resolution on strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateraL trade (A/C.2/45/L.55)

Draft resolution on specific measures in favour of island developing countries (A/C.2/45/L.56)

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Draft resolution on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (A/C.2/45/L.57)

Draft resolution on the Trade and Development Board (A/C.2/45/L.58)

11. Mr. ORTIZ (Bolivia) introduced draft resolutions A/C.2/45/L.54, L.55, L.56, L.57 and L.58 on behalf of the Group of 77 and expressed the hope that they would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology

12. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a draft resolution on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology, which had been approved in Geneva by all co-ordinators for regional groups and China, and invited delegations to contact him if they had any comments. If he received no comments within 48 hours, he would take it that delegations agreed with the draft resolution and would have it reproduced as a Chairman's text for adoption by the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 80: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on environment and international trade (A/C.2/45/L.59)

13. Mr. ORTIZ (Bolivia) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.59 on behalf of the Group of 77 and said that, in the second line of the final paragraph, the phrase "for submission to the third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development," should be inserted after the word "prepare".

Draft resolution on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/C.2/45/L.60)

14. Mr. ORTIZ (Bolivia) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.60 on behalf of the Group of 77. The word "substantive" should be inserted after "first" in both the second preambular paragraph and paragraph 4. In paragraph 3, the phrase "endorsement of the" should be added after "reaffirms its". In paragraph 7, the phrase beginning "so that ..." in the third line and ending with "assisted in participating" in the fifth, should be replaced by "in order that the operation of the Fund may enable developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to participate ...". He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 82: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolution on international co-operation for the eradication of poverty in the developing countries (A/C.2/45/L.41)

15. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.41, on which agreement had been reached in informal consultations, and recommended that it should be adopted by consensus.

16. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.41 was adopted.

17. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on international co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries (A/45/398 and Corr.1).

18. It was so decided.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 82.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on future administrative arrangements for the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities (A/C.2/45/L.53)

20. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.53, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.32, and recommended it for adoption by consensus.

21. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia) suggested that the words "future administrative arrangements for the" should be deleted from the title of the draft resolution so that it would read "United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities".

22. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.53, as orally revised, was adopted.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.53, he would take it that draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.32 was withdrawn.

24. It was so decided.

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25. The CHAIRMAN said that Austria, Czechoslovakia, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland and New Zealand had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.1 on entrepreneurship. Cameroon, Mozambique, Uganda and Zaire had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.50 on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
50th meeting
held on
Friday, 30 November 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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AGENDA ITEM 85: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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A/C.2/45/SR.50
6 December 1990

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(d) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (continued)

Draft resolution on the World Summit for Children (A/C.2/45/L.62)

1. Ms. HJELT at TROLLE (Sweden) said that Finland and Germany had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which was designed to ensure the follow-up of the Summit, particularly by the United Nations system, and give impetus to the implementation of the commitments entered into by over 70 Heads of State or Government in signing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children. The agenda item referred to in paragraph 7 could be considered by both the Second and Third Committees at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, as appropriate.

(e) WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (continued)

Draft resolution on governance of the World Food Programme (A/C.2/45/L.63)

2. Ms. HJELT at TROLLE (Sweden) said that Morocco had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, on which Member States had reached a consensus. The largest development agency in the United Nations system, the World Food Programme (WFP) administered $US 1.4 billion in development assistance schemes and assistance to refugees and victims of natural disasters and other emergencies. The resolution was designed to give forward-looking support to the review process initiated by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, which was shortly to discuss the issue of the governance of WFP. In the light of the joint nature of the Programme, any recommendations by that Committee would be submitted for approval to the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and subsequently to the General Assembly and the Conference of FAO. She hoped the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

(c) UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (continued)

Draft resolution on the United Nations Population Fund (A/C.2/45/L.61)

3. Mr. MAJOOR (Netherlands) said that Romania had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution. He urged that the draft resolution be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 79: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(d) FOOD PROBLEMS (continued)

Draft decision on strengthening technical co-operation among developing countries and food and agriculture (A/C.2/45/L.26)

4. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, said that informal consultations on the draft decision had resulted in a consensus and that Argentina, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar and the Philippines had joined the sponsors. In the preambular part, the phrase "recognizing, inter alia, that developing countries have a primary responsibility for monitoring technical co-operation among themselves in food and agriculture and that developed countries in the United Nations system should assist and support such activities," should be added after the words "food and agriculture,". He recommended that the draft decision should be adopted by consensus.

5. Draft decision A/C.2/45/L.26, as orally amended, was adopted.

6. Mr. LU Ruishu (China) expressed satisfaction that the draft decision had been adopted by consensus and thanked all Member States, the Vice-Chairman and the sponsors.

AGENDA ITEM 85: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (A/45/14, (Supplement No. 14), A/45/634)

7. Mr. AHMED (Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Training and Research: United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/4/634), said that it dealt primarily with the financial condition of UNITAR and other matters which had a bearing on the Institute's long-term viability. It included the most recent data on the Institute's financial problems, and described, in particular, its unsuccessful efforts to sell its headquarters property. The sale was a key element in UNITAR's revitalization strategy and would have enabled the Institute not only to repay its debt to the United Nations but also to establish a reserve fund.

8. UNITAR's expenditures continued to exceed its income, and its debt to the United Nations continued to increase, being expected to exceed $9 million by the end of 1990. Equally disquieting was the continuing long-term decline in contributions by Member States to the General Fund. While the results of the 1990 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities represented an improvement over the 1989 figures, they would probably not make a significant difference in the Institute's fiscal deficit.

9. At its special session in September 1990, the Board of Trustees of UNITAR had suggested that the General Assembly should defer the repayment of UNITAR's debt to the United Nations for about five years or until such time as the real estate

(Mr. Ahmed)

market improved so that the headquarters property could be sold. The Board had also recommended that UNITAR's General Fund should be supplemented by funds from the United Nations regular budget to cover certain training and research activities. Ultimately, UNITAR's difficulties would be resolved only if voluntary contributions by Member States to its General Fund became significantly higher and predictable, and that was not likely to occur. The Secretary-General had therefore urged careful consideration of the recommendations of the Board of Trustees.

10. Referring to annex I of the report, he said that the meeting of autonomous United Nations research institutes, held in July 1990, had been viewed by all participants as a practical first step towards promoting collaboration among those institutes. In order to enhance co-operation, focal points were being designated in each institute. The meeting had also welcomed the efforts of the United Nations University and the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development to develop a register of research activities in the United Nations system. The register would be available in machine-readable form in the second half of 1991. In addition, consultations were being held under the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on organizing a theme-oriented meeting of research institutes in 1991. In view of the Assembly's continuing interest in promoting co-operation among research institutes, the question might be considered as a separate sub-item under the item on training and research.

11. Mr. DOO KINGUE (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) noted that while activities benefiting all Governments were financed from the General Fund, training activities for developing countries in the field of international co-operation, multilateral diplomacy and economic and social development were financed under special-purpose grants. Such grants, which were received not only from Governments, but also from intergovernmental organizations, foundations and the private sector, were also mobilized for UNITAR research, especially in the field of energy, where the Institute was playing an innovative role in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). They currently constituted two thirds of UNITAR's financial resources.

12. Orientation, skills and awareness courses for members of Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva were among the programmes offered for the benefit of all Governments. As part of that programme, training courses had been launched in 1989 for new members of the Security Council and in 1990 for new members of the Fifth Committee. More than 70 delegates, representing 45 countries from all regions of the world, had attended the initial session of the second of those new courses. Enrolment in the already established orientation course for new delegates to the General Assembly had risen from 107 in 1988 to 206 in 1990. A training course on all aspects of peace-keeping was planned for the future and would be implemented when resources became available. Such a course acquired particular importance in the light of the statement recently delivered in the Special Political Committee by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs.

(Mr. Doo Kingue)

13. Training specifically-designed for developing countries included special training programmes for officials in their own countries, at the request of an increasing number of Governments. Such training courses were financed from extrabudgetary resources. In the area of economic and social development, courses were offered on the use of information technology in development organization and management; environment management and management of natural resources, in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); debt management, particularly its legal aspects - until recently, a neglected area; and planning and managing disaster relief programmes, in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO). The latter three programmes were conducted by the Institute's Geneva Office and were financed by special-purpose grants.

14. UNITAR's extrabudgetary training programme had been supported financially by donor agencies, foundations and the private sector. Examples of fruitful co-operation with the private sector included a UNITAR/UNEP training programme for African countries in management of natural resources and protection of the environment assisted by IBM, a training programme for ASEAN countries in the use of information technology in policy-making co-financed by UNDP and the Digital Equipment Corporation with support in kind from four other transnational corporations, and a promotional workshop on photovoltaic systems for Latin American and Caribbean countries organized by the UNITAR/UNDP Centre on Small Energy Resources in partnership with the Massachusetts Photovoltaic Center and supported by the United States Department of Energy and United States national laboratories and industry.

15. With regard to the offer to establish a UNITAR training centre for international co-operation and socio-economic development in the city of Atlanta, discussions were continuing between the city authorities and the United States Department of State on the centre's location. Fund-raising for the endowment fund was reportedly progressing according to schedule.

16. UNITAR research on the United Nations and issues of interest to the United Nations system continued to be funded through extrabudgetary resources. In 1990 UNITAR had published the background papers and final report of the 1988 high-level international round table on "The Future Role of the United Nations in an Interdependent World", and negotiations were about to begin on holding another high-level international round table in the Soviet Union on the theme "The United Nations in the 1990s: Challenges and Opportunities", to be funded from UNITAR's rouble account. Activities for the biennium 1990-1991 included the publication of a manual on human rights reporting and works on the maintenance of peace and security and the promotion of economic and social development, as well as the organization of the fifth International Conference on Heavy Crude and Tar Sands.

17. The problem of long-term financial arrangements had still not been resolved. The restructuring of the Institute approved by the General Assembly in 1984 involved establishinh a reserve fund from the proceeds of the sale of the UNITAR headquarters building. Attempts to sell the building had been frustrated by delays

(Mr. Doo Kingue)

and the deterioration of the real estate market, but three new offers had recently been received. One proposal would give UNITAR 50,000 square feet in a proposed new building but was subject to further negotiation; two other possibilities would entail straightforward purchase at a reasonable price. An interest in the property had also been expressed by the Government of a Member State. The possibilities of selling the property profitably were not yet exhausted, and the Institute's Board of Trustees had been wise to request more time to achieve a lucrative disposal.

18. Since 1984, Government contributions to the General Fund of the Institute had been decreasing. Governments of developing countries represented an increasing proportion of the contributing Governments. The encouraging increase in Government contributions to the General Fund expected following the recent United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities would still be insufficient to finance the minimum General Fund budget for 1991. He strongly supported the Board of Trustees' proposals concerning long-term funding issues.

19. It had been necessary to deal with some serious management problems that had accumulated over the years. Staff had been reduced by 79 per cent since 1981; however, the reduction called for as part of the restructuring of the Institute had resulted in an additional charge of $662,000 on the small General Fund budget, increasing the Institute's debt to the United Nations. The system of "letters of award" had been abolished and the staff litigation problem solved, but at a cost of half a million dollars.

20. Although the Executive Director's first budget had been fully balanced, thanks to action to improve budget control over costs and resources, it had not been possible in subsequent years to balance General Fund budgets with UNITAR's own resources, because of the drastic reduction in Government contributions to the General Fund. A solution was urgently needed to the problem of funding the General Fund budget.

21. The inclusion of UNITAR among the institutions for which pledges were made at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities had significantly reduced the Executive Director's fund-raising responsibilities, while further savings had been achieved as a result of the decision of the Board of Trustees not to include the cost of attendance at meetings as a budget item. To the best of his knowledge, the UNITAR Board of Trustees was the only governing body of a United Nations institution which operated at no cost to the institution.

22. The reduction in staff had not affected the volume and quality of the Institute's training programme, which was larger and more popular than ever; the programme funded through the General Fund was only a small fraction of the total programme. Now that UNITAR had become an executing agency of UNDP, there was scope for expanding operational activities. The authorization given by the General Assembly for the appointment of full-time senior fellows would strengthen the Institute's training and research capability.

(Mr. Doo Kingue)

23. In UNITAR, the United Nations possessed the appropriate training instrument for a fast-changing world. Unfortunately, not all countries were contributing to the General Fund. The Board of Trustees had rightly called for the burden of funding proposals benefiting all Governments to be borne by all Governments. He urged the General Assembly to consider the reasonableness of the Board's suggestion of a moratorium on debt repayments to the United Nations, as a temporary measure, and to endorse its proposals so as to assure the future of the Institute.

24. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) said that, while the most effective way for diplomats to gain an understanding of the workings of the United Nations system was through "on-the-job" learning, it helped to have a prior knowledge of the wider implications of a task and also to be able to improve that knowledge within one's own organization. UNITAR's function was to meet those needs.

25. The valuable contributions UNITAR had made to the work of the United Nations through its training and research activities fully justified the General Assembly's reaffirmation of the continuing validity and relevance of its mandate. United Nations professionals required continued and constant training to make them aware both of current socio-economic issues and of the distinct ethos and perceptions of the peoples with whom they must work. The proposed international development strategy for the Fourth Development Decade stressed that in the development process countries should choose their approaches in accordance with their national priorities, values, traditions and cultures and stage of development, and United Nations professionals assigned to help a country must be aware of the country's priorities and why they had been adopted.

26. Research and training had an ever more important role in the work of the United Nations, allowing relevant information to be identified, communicated and put to meaningful use. UNITAR could only help diplomats and United Nations professionals if it had adequate financial resources. The number of Governments contributing to the UNITAR operational budget and the total amount of their contributions had declined, and since 1985 contributions had been insufficient to cover projected activities. None of the three modalities for long-term funding recommended by the Secretary-General's 1984 report had been implemented.

27. His delegation reaffirmed its support for General Assembly resolution A/44/833 and also supported the recommendations of the Executive Director of UNITAR aimed at solving the Institute's financial problems, particularly those referring to payment by the United Nations for UNITAR training activities benefiting members of the United Nations Secretariat, continuation of Special Purpose Grants for other training activities and deferment for about five years of payment of the UNITAR debt to the United Nations incurred in connection with the purchase of the land on which its headquarters stood. The Philippines supported the establishment of the Training Centre in Atlanta, provided that the Government of the United States did not object to the location and that the creation and functioning of the Centre did not involve financial costs to UNITAR. Arrangements were also being made for co-operation between UNITAR and the Philippine Foreign Service Institute, the training centre for Philippine diplomats. If it was to provide access to the power

(Mr. Guerrero, Philippines)

that came through knowledge and help to make a better world, UNITAR required predictable, assured and continuous funding.

28. Mr. ZUPANJEVAC (Yugoslavia) said that the serious financial difficulties confronting UNITAR threatened the very existence of a body committed to enhancing multilateralism and fostering a greater understanding of the role and function of the United Nations system. It had been frustrating to witness the impasse in efforts to achieve the revitalization of the Institute on a long-term basis.

29. Yugoslavia, as a non-aligned developing country, shared the disappointment expressed in the Secretary-General's report at the unfortunate outcome to a difficult year of transition. The new, significant and well-balanced programmes authorized by the Board of Trustees and the high proportion of projects funded from extrabudgetary resources were evidence of the attention given to the work of the Institute. Acknowledging the problems associated with the sale of the UNITAR headquarters building, he reiterated the importance of a reserve fund established from the proceeds of the sale for the stable, predictable and reliable financing of the Institute. The fund should not, however, be a substitute for voluntary contributions by Governments. Yugoslavia supported recommendation by the Board of Trustees that the General Assembly should consider deferring payments related to the debt of UNITAR to the United Nations. Accordingly, the recommendation of allocations on a continuing basis from the United Nations regular budget to the General Fund deserved careful consideration.

30. Yugoslavia attached great importance to the proposal to establish a training centre in Atlanta with the financial support of the private sector, and hoped that negotiations would be resumed.

31. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) said it was clear that UNITAR continued to find itself in serious difficulties, in particular with its finances. Those difficulties were not limited to the future. The report of the Board of Auditors on UNITAR (A/45/5/Add.4) made a number of comments about UNITAR's financial management which suggested that, despite the efforts to date by the Executive Director, a great deal of further tightening-up was needed. It was surprising that UNITAR should have proposed the reclassification of two P-5 posts to the D-1 level. It was also to be wondered whether the attempt to open a new training centre in Atlanta had been a prudent undertaking at a time when the fundamental question of the Institute's future in New York remained unresolved.

32. While sharing the Secretary-General's assessment that a resumption at higher levels of voluntary contributions to the General Fund was unlikely, as UNITAR had lost the confidence of potential donors, the United Kingdom could not accept the recommendation by UNITAR's Board of Trustees that the General Fund should be supported by the United Nations budget. It was quite illogical to expect Member States who had voted one way with their wallets to vote the other way in the Second Committee.

(Mr. Martin, United Kingdom)

33. The United Kingdom had four suggestions, on which it would warmly welcome the views of others. First, consideration should be given to whether UNITAR itself as a distinct entity had a viable future at all. Secondly, the issue of the sale of UNITAR's building should be re-examined. Thirdly, UNITAR's activities should be reviewed to see which could be dropped and what further staffing cuts any such reduction might entail. Fourthly, all of those strands had to be drawn together, if necessary with the addition of some radical thinking, so that UNITAR's long-term future would be the subject of an informed decision by the General Assembly. The time had passed to be bound by political considerations, or to avoid difficult decisions.

34. Mr. RONDON (Venezuela), said that for the past 25 years, UNITAR had been rendering valuable service to the international community. Its new courses for members of permanent missions on the role, work and procedures of the organization and the training projects on related development-related issues were particularly useful. His delegation urged the Institute to give similar courses and seminars on the problems of environment and development, reflecting the current importance of those topics. Recalling that UNITAR had carried out much work in the area of energy and natural resources, he noted that the Conference on Heavy Crude and Tar Sands was to be held in Venezuela in February 1991.

35. UNITAR was currently facing a critical financial situation, caused by the drop in Member States' contributions to the General Fund. It was to be hoped that voluntary contributions by Governments to the Fund would return to acceptable levels so that UNITAR could continue its work. Despite some contrary opinions, Venezuela felt that UNITAR must find a way out of its temporary financial problems. Although that would require a major effort, his delegation was confident that positive results would be achieved in the near future.

36. Mr. BARAC (Romania) welcomed the fact that, despite the drastic reduction in staff levels, the volume of UNITAR activities had continued to grow, both thanks to resources obtained from special-purpose grants and as a result of the initiative and dynamism of UNITAR staff and fellows. The Institute should play an even greater role in the future. Knowledge was an increasingly important factor in economic progress in a global environment of rapid change in science and technology, which called for emphasis to be placed on higher education, the training of skilled managers, vocational training and the development of research activities.

37. Romania, like other Eastern European countries, faced specific problems during its transition to a market-oriented economy. For example, a large part of the population was unenthusiastic about the Government's liberalization measures, probably because the concept of the market economy was insufficiently understood. Furthermore, there was a critical absence of entrepreneurship, a total lack of risk-taking local managers, and a shortage of skilled professors and researchers to teach and develop capabilities for dealing with the complex problems of the market economy.

(Mr. Barac, Romania)

38. The Government of Romania had already taken some initiatives to overcome those difficulties, but UNITAR could give major additional help. For example, it could establish special training programmes for Romania and similar Eastern European countries to assist in the transition. The content of such programmes might include: collection and distribution of relevant books and publications; organization of courses, lectures and seminars on the private sector; and establishment of fellowship programmes for Romanian students at universities in the West, in courses emphasizing private business and business administration. The time factor was critical, and Romania was ready to discuss any constructive initiatives which UNITAR deemed appropriate.

39. Mr. GAMBARI (Nigeria) said that Nigeria's constant support for UNITAR had led it to establish a $1 million trust fund, the interest from which was paid as its voluntary contribution to the General Fund. As one of the largest beneficiaries of the UNITAR programme, Nigeria felt that it and all similar beneficiaries should continue to sustain and uphold the excellent work for which the Institute was known.

40. Nigeria welcomed the restructuring of UNITAR's programme of work as envisaged in resolution 41/172, and hoped in consequence that the new arrangement would provide an incentive for stable and predictable funding. The pledges made to UNITAR at the recently concluded United Nations Pledging Conference on Development Activities gave few grounds for optimism. As the voluntary contributions from member States had proved inadequate, the time had come to explore other options. The Board of Trustees had recommended that since the resources of the General Fund were used only for the funding of training activities benefiting all Governments, the Fund should be supported by the United Nations budget. Another interesting proposal which merited favourable consideration was that in view of the circumstances that had prevented the Institute from selling its headquarters property, the General Assembly should consider deferring payments related to the debt of UNITAR to the United Nations for about five years. As the Executive Director had revealed that unsolicited bids had been received which were much higher than those made for the property in June, Nigeria considered that such offers should be given active consideration within the overall framework of a long-term financial arrangement for the future of UNITAR.

41. Government contributions were increasingly being made by the developing countries, whereas in the past the bulk of the contributions had come from developed countries. The burden should be shared equitably, since the record showed that UNITAR benefited developed and developing countries alike. Nigeria welcomed the offer made jointly by the city of Atlanta and the state of Georgia to construct a UNITAR centre in Atlanta, and believed that it should be pursued further, as the centre, if approved, could not fail to enhance the Institute's stature and capability.

42. The twenty-fifth anniversary of UNITAR in 1990 had given an opportunity to assess the Institute's relevance, and there had been unanimous recognition that its training programmes were as valid now as 25 years ago. Any new proposal on the future of UNITAR, additional to those already advanced, would serve no useful

(Mr. Gambari, Nigeria)

purpose. The need was long-term forward-looking strategies to resolve the outstanding issues of debt and dwindling contributions to the Fund, so that its usefulness could be preserved for future generations.

43. Mr. KONN (Cameroon) welcomed the broader range of training courses given by UNITAR on increasingly complex topics, the increasing number of them being organized jointly with international or national organizations, and the good level of response to requests by Member States. The emphasis on regionalization of its programmes was particularly commendable, and he hoped that some of the Institute's programmes and seminars would continue to be designed to meet third world countries' needs in the areas of diplomacy and administration.

44. Where research was concerned, his delegation commended the flexible and independent approach taken by UNITAR in its studies of diplomacy, international law, science for development, environment and disarmament, among other topics.

45. Greater co-operation between UNITAR and various other training and research institutions would also be desirable. There was already fruitful co-operation between UNITAR and the Cameroonian Institute for Foreign Relations, and he hoped to see such co-operation extended to other national research institutes. The differing roles of UNITAR and the United Nations University needed to be defined clearly and precisely, so as to avoid duplication of effort or financial complications.

46. Cameroon shared the anxiety of the Institute's Executive Director regarding its financial situation. UNITAR could not be expected to continue to function unless appropriate financial support was forthcoming. As it had not been possible to sell the UNITAR building, Cameroon supported the recommendation that the General Fund of UNITAR should be financed from the United Nations budget, and that payments relating to UNITAR's debt to the United Nations should be deferred for approximately five years. Cameroon would spare no effort to assist UNITAR in its own modest way.

47. Mr. TRAORE (Mali) said that the current structure of contributions to the General Fund was indicative of the division between North and South. In 1984, the developing countries had been responsible for 60 per cent of all contributions to the Fund; in 1989, that figure had risen to 86 per cent. Since the purpose of the Institute's training activities was to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in achieving the major objectives of the Organization, its dire financial straits were in no way compatible with the international community's desire to contribute to the current positive changes in international relations, in particular by strengthening multilateralism and the role of the United Nations.

48. The developing countries needed training in international co-operation and multilateral diplomacy, as well as in fields which would foster their economic and social development and enable them to conduct more effective environmental protection programmes and find solutions to such urgent problems as the external debt crisis, energy generation and resource management, poverty, climate change and

(Mr. Traore, Mali)

the transfer of appropriate technology. Both donors and recipients should endeavour to concentrate more on the building of their common future in an increasingly interdependent world.

49. The need to improve the financial situation of UNITAR could therefore not be overstated. It was hard to understand how the United Nations could be reduced to such financial expedients as selling its property in order to ensure the survival of its programmes. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the developed countries and developing countries with surpluses should therefore make exceptional contributions in order to save the Institute, which was a valuable instrument for the most underprivileged members of the international community, namely, the developing countries. Moreover, the General Assembly should take, as an interim measure, the relevant decisions in keeping with the conclusions of the special session of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR and should endeavour to mobilize special-purpose grants for the Institute. However, such measures should only be the beginning of a broader operation, which would include all United Nations research institutes which, in accordance with paragraph 15 of Assembly resolution 44/175, had organized their first meeting with a view to "enhancing practical co-operation among them, particularly in regard to the formulation and implementation of their programmes and plans". The Assembly should request the Secretary-General to submit annual reports on the conclusions and recommendations of such meetings.

50. While not lacking in the errors inherent in all human activity, the work of UNITAR was more than satisfactory, and the Institute should be enabled to regain its universal identity. Mali hoped that UNITAR would resume all of its basic functions so that it could continue to help improve the developing countries' capacity to deal with the increasing interdependence of all countries and to take part in increasingly complex international relations.

51. Ms. ZHANG Xiaoan (China) said that, during the past year, UNITAR had continued to provide various permanent missions to the United Nations and government officials with useful training in the fields of international co-operation, international law and multilateral diplomacy. In particular, the Institute had trained quite a number of nationals from the developing countries, including China.

52. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 44/175, which authorized the Institute to act where appropriate as an executing agency for UNDP, the problem of the revolving fund had been partially solved. Member States, particularly the developed countries, should support the Institute's activities by increasing their financial contributions to it.

53. China believed that UNITAR would continue to improve its work, strengthen its management and enhance its efficiency. The Institute should further expand and improve its training activities, placing particular emphasis on the training of economic managers and scientific and technological personnel from developing countries.

(Ms. Zhang Xiaoan, China)

54. China had always supported the work of UNITAR and had actively participated in its training programmes. In 1991, the Chinese Government would contribute $10,000 to the Institute.

55. Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO (Bolivia) said that the development of human resources was essential for the development of the developing countries. The international community should therefore support the efforts of UNITAR, which was currently placing a great deal of emphasis on training activities. The restructuring of UNITAR had been successful, and its training programme in both international co-operation and multilateral diplomacy and in economic and social development had been diversified and expanded. In that respect, the implementation of the Atlanta project would be very important.

56. The results of the Institute's research had been of considerable interest to many countries. Bolivia found UNITAR publications particularly useful. His delegation therefore regretted that the restructuring of the Institute had not solved its budgetary problems, and hoped that the Executive Director would be able to find additional sources of financing so that UNITAR could continue its activities, which were of great benefit to the developing countries, including Bolivia.

57. It was unfortunate that UNITAR had not been able to sell its premises at a reasonable price, since that would enable the Institute to pay back its debts and establish a reserve fund. It appeared that more time was needed to achieve that objective. In the light of the current situation, it was important to bear in mind the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR on the long-term financing of the Institute, contained in paragraph 32 of the Secretary-General's report (A/45/634). Bolivia supported those recommendations and hoped that the General Assembly would endorse them.

58. Mr. CHUPRIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that co-operation between Soviet research organizations and UNITAR had resulted in joint studies and publications, prepared by Soviet scientists, on a wide range of economic and social issues of interest to the developing countries, as well as in the conduct of scientific and training seminars in the Soviet Union under the auspices of the Institute. The 1988 meeting held on the future role of the United Nations in an interdependent world, which should stimulate a number of new studies in the area of international security and international economic co-operation, had been held in Moscow, and the proposal by the UNITAR Board of Trustees to organize a similar round table there in 1991 to consider the role and place of the United Nations in the new international political and economic climate merited careful attention.

59. Soviet organizations were also interested in the activities of the UNITAR/UNDP Centre on Heavy Crude and Tar Sands, and a delegation of Soviet experts was planning to attend the fifth International Conference on the subject, to take place in Venezeula in February 1991. The possibility of holding the following conference in the USSR was currently under consideration.

(Mr. Chuprikov, USSR)

60. In recent years, the Institute had curtailed its research work and had concentrated on training. While his delegation recognized the importance of the Institute's new programmes, such as the courses on economic management and environmental protection, and of the current negotiations on the establishment of a UNITAR training centre in Atlanta, Georgia, it believed that there was no reason to reduce the resources available in the General Fund for research activities.

61. The Soviet Union supported the recommendations of the Board of Trustees, the implementation of which would improve the Institute's financial situation. In order to pay back its debt - in excess of $8 million - and establish a special reserve fund, UNITAR should speed up its implementation of the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolutions 42/197, 43/201 and 44/175, in particular those on the restructuring of the Institute, the reduction of its expenses and the need for additional financial resources, including such measures as the sale of the UNITAR building and property. The efforts of the Executive Director to implement those resolutions had so far not been very fruitful, and the Institute's continuing precarious situation had an adverse effect on its work. His delegation therefore hoped that the Board of Directors would take real and effective measures to overcome the problems facing the Institute.

62. Mr. MacARTHUR (United States of America) said the United States had consistently opposed the various loans and subsidies provided to UNITAR from the regular budget of the United Nations, which should not be tapped for programmes which failed to attract sufficient interest on the part of Member States. While the Institute performed some useful functions, his delegation did not believe that many of its core functions were of such interest and benefit to all Member States as to merit continued support through general resources; rather, some of the Institute's programmes should be shifted to other organizations.

63. Consideration of permanent regular budget financing of activities currently financed by the Institute's General Fund should be postponed until the Secretary-General prepared a detailed report describing how the Institute's activities benefited the Organization and Member States. That report should be submitted for views and suggestions to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and to the Fifth Committee. While a small training centre financed from the regular budget of the United Nations might be appropriate, UNITAR should not simply be transferred in its current form, without any change in its mandate, programmes or staffing.

64. Mr. LEMERLE (France) said that his delegation had always supported the activities of UNITAR and was concerned at the Institute's financial difficulties. While the Institute's budget estimates for 1990 had provided from the outset for an advance from the regular budget of the United Nations, such allocations were not in keeping with the repeated recommendations of the General Assembly. His delegation hoped that the General Assembly would take the appropriate measures to put an end to a situation which had continued for too long.

(Mr. Lemerle, France)

65. The Board of Trustees of UNITAR had the responsibility of adopting a balanced and realistic budget, and its examination of the Institute's budget should be in keeping with the General Assembly recommendations. The Institute should comply with those recommendations by not spending more than it received in order not to jeopardize its programme of activities, which was appreciated by developing countries and deserved the support of Member States.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

66. THE CHAIRMAN announced that a number of delegations wished to join in sponsoring draft resolutions which the Committee would consider. The draft resolutions and respective sponsors were: A/C.2/45/L.39 (agenda item 79) - Canada; A/C.2/45/L.49 (agenda item 12) - Senegal and Saint Kitts and Nevis; and A/C.2/45/50 (agenda item 79) - Ghana, Zambia and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
51st meeting
held on
Wednesday, 5 December 1990
at 3.30 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 51st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.51
11 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

90-57509 3358S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 81: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND (continued)

Draft resolution on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/C.2/44/L.66*)

1. Mr. BORG-OLIVIER (Malta), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which were joined by Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Finland, Fiji, Madagascar and Thailand, said that effective universal participation in the negotiating process for a framework convention on climate change was of paramount importance. All countries participating must be satisfied that the conditions of the negotiating process were fair and equitable and took account of the fact that differing interests were involved. Preparation of the draft resolution had been a very complex exercise, with a considerable number of issues having to be taken into account and a number of important and often conflicting interests catered for. It had not been possible to accommodate delegations on every point; however, their manifest willingness to be flexible on important issues had eventually enabled a carefully-balanced draft resolution to be submitted.

2. The CHAIRMAN said he had been informed that the delegation of Jordan also wished to join the sponsors.

3. Mr. PETRONE (Italy) said that it was the opinion of the member States of the European Community that consensus was as close as was possible at the present stage. They believed that the draft resolution, although not perfect, needed the support of as many States as possible, and therefore wished to join the sponsors. They would approach the negotiations with their own clear ideas, but would listen to the opinions of others and to the concerns of the developing countries with an open mind and with their habitual flexibility.

AGENDA ITEM 85: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

Draft resolution on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/C.2/45/L.68)

4. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) introduced the draft resolution.

(b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued)

Draft resolution on the United Nations University (A/C.2/45/L.70)

5. Mr. KOIKE (Japan) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Bangladesh, Peru and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.2/45/L.8, L.33, L.49, L.64 and L.65)

Draft resolutions on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (A/C.2/45/L.8 and L.65)

6. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.65, which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.8. He recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted without a vote.

7. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.65 was adopted.

8. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

Draft resolution on international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (A/C.2/45/L.49)

9. Ms. KIMBALL (Secretary of the Committee) said that the words "un secrétaire général adjoint" in paragraph 1 (b) of the French version of the text should be replaced by the words "l'un des sécrétaires généraux adjoints".

10. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Samoa and Senegal, and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

11. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.49 was adopted.

12. Mr. VORONTSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Soviet Union, the original sponsors of the draft resolution just adopted, expressed their sincere thanks to the 116 other delegations which had joined them as co-sponsors. That gesture of solidarity proved once again that nations united in a spirit of goodwill could become a powerful force for humanism and the good of mankind. It also proved that "no man is an island", that a heartfelt desire to assist a fellow dweller on the planet Earth transcended national boundaries and abolished all political, racial, regional or other distinctions. At such moments the concepts of "humanity" and "mankind" became filled with special significance and the philosophical category of "universal human values" was translated into concrete political action.

13. His delegation noted with satisfaction the useful work done by the United Nations Secretariat towards facilitating the thorough and fruitful consideration given to various aspects of the Chernobyl issue at the present session. In that connection, special thanks were due to the Secretary-General, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe.

(Mr. Vorontsov, USSR)

14. The resolution just adopted was a blueprint for serious multi-level action to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, an exercise which would require co-ordinated and mutually acceptable efforts on the part of all the parties involved - Governments, organizations and special agencies of the United Nations system, and structures within the Secretariat.

15. The three delegations on whose behalf he was speaking had already had occasion to comment on the resolution's specific provisions, and he now wished to draw attention to some points of a more general nature. First, the international programme for co-ordinated activities under the resolution should be carried out within a clear-cut time-frame and the respective activities of all involved should be clearly defined. Second, the significance of the effort would be enhanced by the appointment of one of the Under-Secretaries-General of the United Nations to serve as co-ordinator of activities in connection with Chernobyl. Third, membership in the task force set up under the resolution should be open to all interested States and, above all, to experts from the member countries most affected by the accident. Fourth, the three delegations on whose behalf he was speaking were counting upon broad international support, inter alia in the form of voluntary contributions, for the United Nations effort connected with Chernobyl. For their part, the Governments of the Byelorussian SSR, the Ukrainian SSR and the USSR undertook to do everything in their power to ensure that international co-operation was organically incorporated in and effectively supplemented their internal efforts to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The three Governments were willing to continue submitting all information available to them on the subject and to provide the most favourable conditions for the work of international missions and experts, whose recommendations and advice they would take fully into consideration. They were also determined to share with all interested countries the experience and expertise they were acquiring in matters relating to the elimination of the consequences of Chernobyl. Bearing in mind the importance of nuclear power production in the economies of many regions of the contemporary world, as well as the human dimension of the nuclear power problem, the value of an integrated approach could hardly be overestimated.

16. The three delegations hoped that the steps to be undertaken collectively and individually by all Members would substantially advance the effort of mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. The United Nations family would thus convincingly demonstrate its tremendous potential for resolving complex global problems at whose centre, in the last analysis, stood the individual human being.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

Draft resolution on the world decade for cultural development (A/C.2/45/L.33 and L.64)

17. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, said that a consensus text had been prepared during informal consultations on the basis of document A/C.2/45/L.33. The text was contained in A/C.2/45/L.64, which he recommended for adoption without a vote.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.64 was adopted.

19. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.33 was withdrawn.

Draft resolution on entrepreneurship (A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.1)

20. The CHAIRMAN announced that Hungary had joined the sponsors.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(d) UNITED NATIONS CHILDRENS FUND (continued)

Draft resolution on the World Summit for Children (A/C.2/45/L.62)

21. The CHAIRMAN announced that Bangladesh, Cuba, Ecuador, Greece, Ireland, Jamaica, Mongolia, and Saint Kitts and Nevis had joined the sponsors.

(e) WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (continued)

Draft decision on governance of the World Food Programme (A/C.2/45/L.63)

22. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, said that Morocco had been one of the original sponsors of the draft resolution, and should therefore be listed among them. Furthermore, in paragraph 2, the words "contained in document E/1990/101 of 9 July 1990" should be inserted after the word "decision". With those two amendments, he recommended the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote.

23. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) asked why the present draft resolution and others were submitted without statements of programme budget implications.

24. The CHAIRMAN explained that every draft resolution was examined for budgetary implications, and if there were such implications, a statement of programme budget implications was issued. If no such statement was issued, there was no budgetary implication.

25. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.63, as orally amended, was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)

Draft resolution on special assistance to the front-line States (A/C.2/45/L.15)

26. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, said that following a number of informal consultations, agreement had been reached on the text of the draft resolution, as contained in document A/C.2/45/L.15. In paragraph 3 of the English version, the word "past" should be added before "acts" and the word "continued" before "destabilization". Mali, Suriname and Swaziland had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution had no financial implications.

27. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.15, as orally amended, was adopted.

28. Mr. MUCHANGA (Zambia) thanked the Committee for its unanimous adoption of the resolution, a gesture of solidarity highly appreciated by the 70 million people of the front-line States. Many delegations had contributed to the drafting of the resolution, which in its final form accurately reflected the situation in southern Africa at the present time.

29. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) said that while joining the consensus on the draft resolution in document A/C.2/45/L.15, his delegation nevertheless found it regrettable that the Committee had not taken greater account of the many positive developments in South Africa since the release of Nelson Mandela. Similarly, paragraph 3 could have made it clearer that the acts of aggression and destabilization referred to were in the past and not continuing at the present time. Finally, the United Kingdom's substantial assistance to the front-line States should be seen in a wider context than that referred to in operative paragraph 4.

Draft resolution on Operation Lifeline Sudan (A/C.2/45/L.17/Rev.1)

30. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, reported that following various informal consultations, agreement had been reached on the wording of the draft resolution, which he now proposed to the Committee for adoption without a vote. He also informed the Committee that Egypt had joined the sponsors.

31. Mr. GIRON (Colombia) stated that Colombia also wished to join the sponsors.

32. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.17/Rev.1 was adopted.

33. Mr. ELNUR (Sudan) thanked all the States which had ensured that Operation Lifeline Sudan could continue and achieve its objectives.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
52nd meeting
held on
Friday, 7 December 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 52nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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(d) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(a) OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.52
12 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

90-57521 3371S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

Draft resolutions on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/C.2/45/L.23 and L.73)

1. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.73, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.23, and recommended it for adoption by consensus. He noted that the words "identification of" should be inserted in paragraph 7 immediately before the phrase "constraints in that regard".

2. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.73, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

3. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.23 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

AGENDA ITEM 79: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

Draft resolution on the unification of Yemen: support of the international community for its economic and social infrastructure (A/C.2/45/L.35/Rev.1)

4. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, announced that, following informal consultations, consensus had been reached on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.35/Rev.1. Accordingly, he recommended that the text should be adopted without a vote.

5. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.35/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

6. Mr. MISSARY (Yemen) paid tribute to all delegations that had contributed to the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(d) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (continued)

Draft resolutions on the World Summit for Children (A/C.2/45/L.62 and L.74)

7. The CHAIRMAN said that Afghanistan, Barbados, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, the Niger, Nigeria, Portugal, Rwanda, Samoa and Viet Nam had indicated that they, too, wished to sponsor draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.62.

8. Mr. GEBREMEDHIN (Ethiopia) said that his delegation also wished to sponsor draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.62.

9. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, said he was pleased to submit draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.74, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.62, and recommended that the Committee should adopt it without a vote.

10. Mr. ALMABROUK (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) noted that the Arabic text of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.74 contained an incorrect reference to draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.60.

11. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.74 was adopted without a vote.

12. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.62 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(a) OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR (continued)

Draft resolutions on strengthening of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (A/C.2/45/L.22 and L.67)

13. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the wording of paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.67 should be slightly modified. In the sixth line, the phrase "so that it may fulfil its mandate" should read "to fulfil its mandate" and should be followed by a comma, and the phrase "as set out in the proposed programme budget" should read "which are to be included in the proposed programme budget". He also drew attention to document A/C.2/45/L.52, which contained the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.22. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.67, had no programme budget implications.

14. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.67, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.22, and recommended it for adoption without a vote.

15. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.67, as orally corrected, was adopted.

16. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) said that he wished to express once again his country's gratitude to the United Nations and other countries which had provided disaster relief to the Philippines. The resolution which the Committee had just adopted constituted yet another indication of the international community's willingness to help UNDRO mitigate the effects of natural disasters, and that display of solidarity was very welcome.

17. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.22 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

18. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 86.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

19. The CHAIRMAN said that he had found it difficult to assure the President of the General Assembly that the Committee would complete its work on time. He had consulted with the Secretariat, and wished to suggest that the Committee should finish its work on Tuesday, 11 December 1990, as five or six days would be required for the preparation of the Committee's reports to the General Assembly. The

(The Chairman)

President of the Assembly was adamant about ending the session on time, and even if the Committee finished on the date he had suggested, the Assembly would barely have time to complete its work.

20. Mr. CROSA (Department of Conference Services) confirmed that, on the basis of preliminary estimates, preparation of the reports of the Second Committee for submission to the General Assembly would require at least one week. While several of those reports were likely to be short, some - including those on agenda items 12 and 84 - would be quite lengthy. He explained the steps involved in processing documents in the Secretariat, noting that in the case of the lengthy reports which had been mentioned reproduction in all six official languages would in itself require at least 24 hours.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that the Department of Conference Services had prepared its estimates at his request and appealed to the Committee to make every effort to complete its work on schedule.

22. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) said that his delegation would be happy to work during the weekend to speed the work of the Committee. However, he suggested that the Committee's work might have been organized differently throughout the session, particularly in the case of agenda item 84. In the future, the Committee should be given sufficient time to reach agreements on difficult issues.

23. The CHAIRMAN acknowledged that the draft resolution on operational activities was a very difficult one but said that he was not in a position to give the Committee any more time for deliberation.

24. Mr. ZULETA (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group was making all necessary efforts to facilitate the Committee's work. The help of all delegations was required if the Committee was to conclude its work promptly.

25. Mr. PETRONE (Italy), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, also expressed willingness to work very hard so that the Committee might conclude its work on schedule.

26. The CHAIRMAN announced that a number of delegations wished to join in sponsoring draft resolutions which the Committee would consider. The draft resolutions and respective sponsors were A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.1 (agenda item 12) - Guatemala, Guinea and Malta; A/C.2/45/L.50 (agenda item 79) - Singapore and Yugoslavia; A/C.2/45/L.66* (agenda item 81) - Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Nigeria and Yugoslavia; A/C.2/45/L.70 (agenda item 85) - Ghana, Iceland and Mongolia.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
53rd meeting
held on
10 December 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 53rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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AGENDA ITEM 79: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.53
13 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued)

Draft resolution on operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/45/L.75)

1. Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO, introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the draft was currently the subject of consultations, and that a broad agreement had already been reached with other groups and delegations. He hoped that the negotiations would result in a draft text which the Committee would be able to adopt by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

Draft resolutions on a code of conduct on transnational corporations (A/C.2/45/L.24/Rev.1 and L.71)

2. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.71, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.24/Rev.1, and expressed the hope that it would be adopted without a vote. In the second preambular paragraph of the English text, the word "concerning" should be deleted and replaced by the word "on"; the French text would also be corrected.

3. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.71, as orally revised, was adopted.

4. Mr. SOBERANIS (Mexico) said that the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations should have been adopted at the current session. The text of the draft code was balanced and contained principles and guidelines which were useful for countries which received direct foreign investment. It also contained principles which allowed transnational corporations to operate within a legal framework established by those countries. However, the adoption of the draft code had been blocked by a small number of delegations and had consequently been postponed. His delegation called upon the international community, especially the capital-exporting countries, to show greater flexibility so that a consensus could be reached on the draft code as soon as possible.

5. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) said that his delegation shared the views expressed by the representative of Mexico. All countries must endeavour to reach agreement on the draft code as soon as possible.

6. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia), referring to the operative paragraph of the resolution just adopted, wished to know with whom the intensive consultations would be held. He hoped that Member States would be able to participate in those consultations.

7. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, said that the consultations would be undertaken by the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the Secretary-General, and that the views of Member States would be taken into account.

8. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia) said that it might be helpful to specify in the draft resolution that consultations would be held with Member States. However, if that was not possible, his delegation could accept the resolution as it had been adopted.

9. Mr. FAIVET (Observer for Switzerland) welcomed the results of the informal negotiations on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.71. Referring to the remarks made by the representative of Tunisia, he inquired whether Member States and transnational corporations could be included in the intensive consultations.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that he would communicate the views made by delegations after the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.71 to the President of the General Assembly.

11. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.24/Rev.1 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Draft resolution on entrepreneurship (A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.2)

12. The CHAIRMAN announced that Bulgaria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 79: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

Draft resolutions on developing human resources for development (A/C.2/45/L.30 and L.78)

13. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.78, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.30, and expressed the hope that it would be adopted without a vote.

14. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.78 was adopted.

15. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) said that human resources development was one of the most important means of achieving economic and social development. In recent years, the Second Committee and the General Assembly had taken greater account of the human condition and of man, which was reflected in the proposed international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. His delegation thanked all the delegations and groups for their co-operation during the negotiations on the draft resolution.

16. Mr. CANTINI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, expressed the Twelve's satisfaction with the result and their gratitude to all participants for their genuine co-operation. The draft resolution would be a basic reference document for Governments in the important field of human resources development.

17. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.30 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Draft resolution on economic stabilization programmes in developing countries (A/C.2/45/L.36/Rev.1)

18. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice Chairman, reported that agreement on the text had been reached in informal meetings and recommended it for adoption by consensus. He pointed out that in the first line of the seventh preambular paragraph the words "and appropriate national policies" should be inserted after the word "environment" and "is" should be changed to "are".

19. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.36/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

20. Mr. OHLIN (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) congratulated the Committee on achieving consensus, but reminded it that no provision had been made in the programme budget for the report requested in the draft resolution. The Secretariat was currently trying to determine how such provision could be achieved, but was also examining whether some reports on closely related subjects could be consolidated. In a situation of strained resources, when unforeseen tasks were added it might be necessary to attempt unconventional measures.

21. Mr. ORTIZ (Bolivia), while recognizing the difficulty facing the Secretariat, said that the Committee was entering a new stage in its work when the proposals which it had been discussing must be turned into concrete reality. He urged the Secretariat to make even greater efforts than it had in the past, to meet the needs of the Member States.

22. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) said that while he was not unmindful of the difficulty he nevertheless believed firmly that when the international community had pronounced its will that will must be respected. He asked whether the present occasion was the first time a resolution had been adopted which did not fit into the programme or the budget of the United Nations, and wished to know, if it was not the first time, how the problem had been resolved in the past.

23. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) said that his delegation had every respect for Mr. Ohlin's views, but found it regrettable that just at the moment when consensus had been achieved on such a major topic, a relatively minor administrative obstacle should be raised. The draft resolution made an extremely modest request, merely calling upon appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to monitor and analyse further the relevant socio-economic indicators in order to assess closely the various socio-economic effects of the adjustment programmes. He urged the Secretariat to search for new methods to resolve budgetary problems.

24. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia) supported the views expressed by Pakistan. He felt strongly that the task of the Secretariat was to implement the decisions of the General Assembly, not to ask the Committee to revise or reduce any of its decisions.

25. Mr. OHLIN (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) recalled that he had asked for the floor only after adoption of the resolution, and certainly had not intended to be obstructive. He had, however, felt an obligation to point out certain implications of the adoption. He agreed entirely with the representative of Pakistan and with all the other delegates who had spoken on the issue that when consensus was reached in the Committee on such important issues, then of course the Secretariat must respond. It was, however, a fact of life that there was a programme budget. When similar situations had arisen in the past, it had been possible to rearrange or postpone items. The subject of the resolution was so major that it raised important administrative issues. Moreover, resources were much more strained than they had been in the past, and the issues to be addressed were multiplying.

26. The response of the Secretariat to the will of the Committee might involve consolidating the treatment of related issues, or of co-ordinating reports with others on very similar subjects. Such co-ordination would take place in consultation with delegations.

27. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that it was his understanding from earlier discussions that the position had been left that if there were no statement of programme budget implications it could be assumed that a draft resolution did not have financial implications. In the absence of such a statement, the draft resolution under discussion should, therefore, have no programme budget implications; however, it seemed that that might not be the case. Failure to bring programme budget implications to the attention of the Committee would be a dereliction of the rules of the United Nations. Even if a draft resolution did not have financial implications, the Committee should be provided with a statement from the Secretariat to that effect; otherwise, it would be adopting resolutions without knowing the consequences.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that all draft resolutions were seen by the Programme Planning and Budget Division, which was fully aware of the situation and had not issued a statement of programme budget implications. Calls for the preparation of reports or for additions to the World Economic Survey could pose problems for the internal allocation of work and attention had been drawn to some potential difficulties.

29. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that the situation remained unclear. Statements of programme budget implications normally set out, clearly, the various implications of a draft resolution including the possible redeployment of costs between different areas of work. If there was a need for redeployment in the present case then a statement of programme budget implications was called for.

30. Mr. OHLIN (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs), said that it was his impression that the absence of a statement of programme budget implications was in practice taken to suggest that there were no serious implications, and in the case in question it had thus far been decided that a statement of serious programme budget implications was not called for. The purpose of his statement had been to explain that his office would consider the situation manageable even if more than the redeployment of resources within the programme budget was possibly implied; that was why he had suggested that some change in the format of the reports from the Secretary-General might also be called for.

31. Mrs. DUEÑAS de WHIST (Ecuador) asked what areas would be affected by consolidation and what would be the mandate for such action.

32. Mr. OHLIN (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs), said that it was as yet unclear how many reports would eventually be produced. The question of mandates raised the further question of what precisely constituted a report: if a comprehensive report covered two aspects of a subject for both of which there was a mandate, would it be contrary to the mandates to produce a combined report? He wished to draw the matter to the Committee's attention in order to discover what objections there might be.

Draft resolutions on the report of the South Commission (A/C.2/45/L.39 and L.80)

33. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.80, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.39, and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

34. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.80 was adopted.

35. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.39 was withdrawn by the sponsor.

Draft resolution on the inclusion of Namibia in the list of least developed countries (A/C.2/45/L.54/Rev.1)

36. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introducing the draft resolution, said that informal consultations had produced a consensus and he recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

37. Mr. STOBY (Secretary) said that in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution the Committee for Development Planning was requested to report to the General Assembly on the inclusion of Namibia in the list of least developed countries. The Committee normally reported to the Economic and Social Council. He assumed that the normal procedure would be followed.

38. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.54/Rev.1 was adopted.

39. Mr. MacARTHUR (United States of America) said that his country had joined the consensus on the draft resolution but wished to register its concern that more precise criteria should be used to define the category of least developed countries and that the list should reflect current realities by allowing for subtractions from as well as additions to it.

(b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology (A/C.2/45/L.69)

40. The CHAIRMAN, introducing the draft resolution, said that an informal draft had been agreed by all five regional groups at Geneva and no further comments had been received from delegations in New York.

41. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.69 was adopted.

42. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a comment by Mr. ORLIANGE (France), said that he would ask the Secretary to bring the French text of paragraph 2 into line with the English original.

(a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (1991-2000) (continued)

Draft resolution on the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (A/C.2/45/L.72)

43. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introducing the draft resolution, said that informal consultations had enabled a broad consensus to be achieved and he recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus, without a vote.

44. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.72 was adopted.

45. Mr. ORTIZ-GANDARILLAS (Bolivia) expressed satisfaction, on behalf of the Group of 77, at the adoption of so important and historic a resolution and thanked all the delegations for their part in helping to achieve a consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 148: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolutions (A/C.2/45/L.7 and L.83)

46. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice Chairman, introduced the draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.83, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.7. He drew attention to two places in the text where some revision was necessary. The French text of paragraph 4 would be realigned subsequently with the

(Mr. Gianelli, Uruguay)

English text to eliminate a number of discrepancies, and in lines 6 and 7 of paragraph 5 of the English text the words "in accordance with" should be replaced by the words "as provided for in". He recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted without a vote.

47. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.83, as orally revised, was adopted.

48. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.7 was withdrawn by its sponsor.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 148.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
54th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 11 December 1990
at 9 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 54th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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AGENDA ITEM 79: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

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(c) REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (continued)

(d) FOOD PROBLEMS (continued)

(e) NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY (continued)

(f) DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

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AGENDA ITEM 81: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND (continued)

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(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)

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A/C.2/45/SR.54
18 December 1990

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CONTENTS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(c) UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The meeting was called to order at 10 p.m.

1. The CHAIRMAN said that some of the draft resolutions which the Committee would be considering were not available in all the official languages. That was being done in order to expedite the Committee's work and he asked all delegations for their co-operation.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

Draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/45/L.2* and draft resolution on entrepreneurship (A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.2)

2. The CHAIRMAN said that Mozambique, the Philippines, Samoa and Yugoslavia had joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.2.

3. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the informal consultations, said that despite earnest efforts, agreement had not been reached on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.2.

4. Mr. FERNANDEZ de COSSIO (Cuba) speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that his delegation would vote against draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.2, which was doctrinaire and contrary to the pluralism which should characterize the United Nations. The draft resolution clearly sought to promote the system of market economies. If adopted, it would have the dangerous effect of recommending specific socio-economic and political models to Member States. At a time when the cold war was ending, such an initiative in the Second Committee was especially disturbing.

5. His delegation did not agree that a market economy offered opportunities for all peoples. Cuba did not have a legal, regulatory or institutional framework for a market economy, saw no need to establish one and rejected the idea that other countries should be encouraged to strengthen such structures. His delegation was disappointed that the draft resolution had been submitted and concerned by the thought that it might be adopted. Ultimately, such a resolution could only have adverse implications for the poorer countries.

6. Mr. ANDRADE (Guatemala) expressed satisfaction with the final text of the resolution. Entrepreneurship was crucial to growth and development in the developing countries, and to their ability to participate constructively in the international economy. To that end, entrepreneurship and competition must be fostered at both the national and international levels, unhampered by centralized decision-making, overregulation, the monopolization of economic activities and administrative complications. Obstacles to obtaining information, entering international markets and acquiring technology must be removed.

7. His delegation had always believed that entrepreneurship must be taken into account in the treatment of socio-economic issues at the United Nations. Adoption of the draft resolution would reflect a more realistic, balanced approach to international economic problems.

8. Mr. ZHANG Yesui (China) requested that the twelfth preambular paragraph of the Chinese version be brought into conformity with the English text. In particular, the words "engage in" should be faithfully reflected in Chinese.

9. Mr. CAMARA (Guinea) said that his delegation wished to have its name deleted from the list of sponsors, as it had never been a sponsor of the resolution.

10. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.2.

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Cuba, Guinea.

Abstaining: Angola, Burkina Faso.

11. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.2 was adopted by 121 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.

12. Mr. ZHANG Yesui (China), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution since it recognized the positive role of entrepreneurship in economic development. Entrepreneurship was important in both the private and public sectors, a fact which the draft resolution, with its emphasis on the private sector, failed to reflect adequately. Currently, there were a variety of social, political and economic development systems, and no one model was of universal applicability. All systems should be accorded full respect.

13. Mr. VALLENILLA (Venezuela) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution since entrepreneurship made a significant contribution to economic growth and development. Nevertheless, the importance of the role played by the State in providing a famework for economic initiatives must be recognized. It was also important to keep in mind that a variety of pressing economic problems still awaited solution.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.2, he would take it, if he heard no objection, that no action was necessary on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/45/L.2*.

15. It was so decided.

Draft resolution on revitalization of the Economic and Social Council (A/C.2/45/L.21)

16. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, said that the draft resolution was being withdrawn by its sponsors on the understanding that it would be submitted to the Assembly in plenary.

17. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/45/3 and Add.1 and 2); the report of the Secretary-General on preparation of the programme for the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1991-2000 (A/45/185-E/1990/48); the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (A/45/257-E/1990/61); the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award and the Trust Fund for the United Nations Population Award (A/45/278 and Cor..1); and the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the twenty-fifth series of joint meetings of the committees (A/45/835).

18. It was so decided.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 12.

AGENDA ITEM 79: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

Draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/45/L.4

20. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, said that, on the basis of the informal consultations, he proposed that consideration of the draft resolution entitled "International conference on money and finance for development", contained in document A/C.2/45/L.4, should be deferred to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

21. It was so decided.

Draft resolution on industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries (A/C.2/45/L.42/Rev.1)

22. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, said that agreement had been reached in the informal consultations and he could recommend the text to the Committee for adoption by consensus.

23. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.42/Rev.1 was adopted.

Draft resolutions on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas (A/C.2/45/L.50 and L.77)

24. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.77, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.50, and recommended it for adoption by consensus.

25. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.77 was adopted.

26. Mr. TANLAY (Turkey) stressed that his delegation's participation in the consensus did not alter its position on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, mentioned in the resolution's third preambular paragraph. Turkey had not signed that Convention and had stated the reasons on a number of occasions, most recently at the 62nd plenary meeting of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

27. Mr. MACDONALD (Observer, European Economic Community) said that the draft resolution just adopted represented an important step forward in the protection of the marine environment while still maintaining the legal basis of General Assembly resolution 44/225. The European Community would take active measures in the area, in accordance with both resolutions. Certain portions of the French version should be brought into conformity with the English text.

28. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.50 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

(b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on commodities (A/C.2/45/L.47 and L.84)

29. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.84, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.47, and recommended it for adoption by consensus.

30. Mr. KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire), supported by Mr. BALE RAYMOND (Congo), expressed concern that "normalement bas" in the French did not accurately reflect "generally low" in the fifth preambular paragraph of the English text.

31. The CHAIRMAN said that the French version would be brought into conformity with the English.

32. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.84 was adopted.

33. Mr. PETRONE (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community, expressed satisfaction at the adoption of the draft resolution. Regrettably, the timing of the negotiations had precluded the full utilization of inputs from the Committee on Commodities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Undoubtedly, the Committee on Commodities would play a useful role in the preparatory work of the eighth session of UNCTAD.

34. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.47 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Draft resolutions on the net transfer of resources (A/C.2/45/L.31 and L.94)

35. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.94, entitled "Net transfer of resources between developing countries and developed countries", based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.31 and recommended that it should be adopted by consensus.

36. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.94 was adopted.

37. Mr. PETRONE (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that he wished to recall the statement made on behalf of the Community in the Economic and Social Council on the adoption of its resolution 1990/56, as well as the statement made in the Committee on the Community's behalf under item 79.

38. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.31 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Draft resolutions on strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade (A/C.2/45/L.55 and L.91)

39. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.91, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.55, and recommended that it should be adopted by consensus.

40. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.91 was adopted.

41. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.55 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Draft resolution on specific measures in favour of island developing countries (A/C.2/45/L.56/Rev.1)

42. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the results of the informal consultations, recommended that draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.56/Rev.1 should be adopted by consensus.

43. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.56/Rev.1 was adopted.

44. Mr. HOLTHE (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the draft resolution grouped countries with very different economic systems simply because they were island developing countries. Several of those countries were classified as least developed countries and thus specially targeted for assistance from the Nordic States.

45. Mr. PETRONE (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that although the Community did not recognize island developing countries as a separate category, it had undertaken programmes to meet their economic needs inter alia through the Lomé Conventions.

Draft resolutions on the Trade and Development Board (A/C.2/45/L.58 and L.92)

46. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.92, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.58, and recommended that it should be adopted by consensus.

47. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.92 was adopted.

48. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.58 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Draft resolution on the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (A/C.2/45/L.76)

49. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.76.

50. It was so decided.

51. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the negotiations on a draft international code of conduct on the transfer of technology (A/45/588).

52. It was so decided.

(c) REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolutions on implementation of the Programme of Action for the least developed countries for the 1990s (A/C.2/45/L.57 and L.96)

53. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.96, based on the informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.57 and recommended it for adoption on the understanding that the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would make a statement regarding the draft resolution's programme budget implications, contained in document A/C.2/45/L.81 and Add.1, and that the Committee would take note of that statement.

54. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.96 was adopted.

55. Mr. BERTHELOT (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that the programme budget implications of the draft resolution set out in document A/C.2/45/L.81 and Add.1 would not allow the UNCTAD secretariat to respond effectively to the demands made of it.

56. During the past four years the Conference's mandates and work programmes had expanded significantly, while the Conference secretariat had seen the number of its posts reduced. At its current session, the General Assembly had already adopted several resolutions implying substantial additional tasks for UNCTAD.

57. Given the gravity of the problems facing the least developed countries, it was essential that the implications of the Programme of Action should be given serious consideration. The new Programme of Action was qualitatively different from the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (SNPA), and its success would depend on the effectiveness of its monitoring and review mechanisms. Those mechanisms must be established as quickly as possible, with UNCTAD playing a central role. Whereas the SNPA had required an intergovernmental review only once every five years, the new Programme of Action required annual reviews in addition to a comprehensive mid-term review. During the 1980s, the UNCTAD secretariat had attended review meetings only for information purposes, while under the new Programme of Action it was required to participate in the review process itself, which would involve some 20 reviews annually.

58. The statement of programme budget implications had costed a number of technical posts required for the implementation of the Programme of Action, but failed to reflect adequately the priority the Organization was to attach to the work to be done by UNCTAD. The resources proposed in the statement would not permit UNCTAD even to begin to assume its extensive new responsibilities. For it to do so, three essential requirements must be met: the post of Director of the UNCTAD Special Programme on the Least Developed Countries must be at a level commensurate with the scope and importance of the expanded responsibilities given to the Special Programme; the managerial and technical capacity of the Special Programme must be strengthened; and UNCTAD must be able to provide support to delegations from least developed countries in New York as well as at Geneva. It was not too late to present those requirements to the General Assembly in a more realistic manner at its current session.

59. Specifically, the Director of the UNCTAD Special Programme should be appointed at the D-2 level and one General Service post should be created. To enhance the Special Programme's capacity to meet its new responsibilities, one senior officer (P-5) and one officer (P-3), together with another General Service staff member, would be required to supplement existing staff, given the need to appraise the macro-economic frameworks and related plans of least developed countries. One officer at the P-4 level would be required to assist in the conceptualization and establishment of methodology for the development and maintenance of performance indicators through consultations with the regional commissions, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP and the World Bank. Priority would be given to that position, since performance indicators constituted an important means of monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels. In addition, one General Service staff at the G-7 level would be required to provide administrative support for an expanded programme of technical co-operation.

(Mr. Berthelot)

60. In the context of providing substantive support to delegations from least developed countries, one D-1 post, one P-4 post and one General Service post would be required in New York. Those staff would facilitate co-ordination between least developed countries and United Nations and other international bodies, assist in the servicing of ministerial consultations among least developed countries and work with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to ensure system-wide co-ordination. They would report to the Director of the Special Programme.

61. New post requirements were estimated at $330,200 for staff in the Professional and higher categories and $119,900 for General Service staff, under section 15 of the programme budget. Additional requirements for 1991 included $50,000 for consultant services in connection with the conceptualization of development indicators, the analysis of women's role in development and the strengthening of human and institutional capacities and environmental management; $75,000 for travel; and $125,000 for ad hoc expert group meetings.

62. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to take note of the statement by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

63. It was so decided.

64. Mr. KOIKE (Japan) said that his Government attached great importance to the solution of the problems of least-developed countries and urged Governments and donor organizations to honour the commitments they had undertaken in Paris. In reaffirming Japan's own commitment in that regard, his delegation was pleased to join in the consensus on the draft resolution just adopted.

65. However, his delegation had reservations regarding the programme budget implications set out in document A/C.2/45/L.81 and Add.1, especially in the sections dealing with the programmes of the regional economic commissions. He recognized that UNCTAD was expected to serve as the focal point for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action but did not understand how that situation necessitated changes in the programme budget. The matter should have been considered by the commissions and by the Economic and Social Council before it was submitted to the Second Committee.

66. Mr. PETRONE (Italy), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, heartily welcomed the resolution which the Committee had just adopted and expressed appreciation for the flexibility and spirit of compromise demonstrated during the negotiations on the draft text by the Group of 77, and he urged all agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to collaborate in order to achieve the objectives of the Programme of Action.

67. With regard to the programme budget implications of the resolution, he endorsed paragraphs 26 to 28 of document A/C.2/45/L.81 and urged that the importance of the Programme of Action should be borne in mind in allocating resources from the contingency fund.

68. Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that he would make a statement on the draft resolution once it had been adopted by the General Assembly in plenary meeting.

69. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.57 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

(d) FOOD PROBLEMS (continued) (A/C.2/45/L.40 and L.79)

Draft resolutions on food and agricultural problems (A/C.2/45/L.40 and L.79)

70. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced A/C.2/45/L.79, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.40 and recommended it for adoption.

71. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.79 was adopted.

72. Mr. PETRONE (Italy), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution on the understanding that the twelfth preambular paragraph did not apply to action taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

73. Mr. MARKS (United States of America) said that his delegation had also joined in the consensus on the understanding that the reference to the "right to food" in the twelfth preambular paragraph was without prejudice to any action taken under Security Council resolutions to maintain international peace and security.

74. Mr. CERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina) requested that the eighth preambular paragraph and paragraph 10 of the Spanish version of the draft resolution should be brought into line with the English text.

75. Mr. KÄÄRIÄ (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said it was their understanding that the twelfth preambular paragraph did not affect the implementation of measures adopted within the framework of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

76. The Nordic countries' support of paragraph 16 did not change their position regarding the continuation of the special programme for sub-Saharan Africa of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which was very important and should be integrated within the regional activities of IFAD.

77. Mr. MACDONALD (Observer, European Economic Community) requested that the French version of the draft resolution should be brought into line with the English text.

78. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.40 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

(e) NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY (continued)

Draft resolution on the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (A/C.2/45/L.37/Rev.1)

79. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, said that a consensus had been reached in informal consultations on the draft resolution and read out a minor editorial change to the text.

80. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.37/Rev.1 was adopted.

(f) DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolutions on developmment of the energy resources of developing countries (A/C.2/45/L.38 and L.90)

81. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.90, based on informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.38, and recommended it for adoption.

82. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.90 was adopted.

83. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.38 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

84. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/45/25) under agenda item 79 and of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (A/45/41) under agenda item 79 (a).

85. It was so decided.

86. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 79.

AGENDA ITEM 80: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on environment and international trade (A/C.2/45/L.59 and L.95)

87. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.95, based on informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.59. He noted that the word "acknowledged" in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution should be replaced by the word "stated" and said that paragraph 2 should be revised to read:

> "Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to consult the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant United Nations

(Mr. Amaziane, Morocco)

organs, organizations and programmes in preparing the report on transfer of technology requested in decision 1/8 of the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for submission to the third session of the Preparatory Committee, including, inter alia, the obstacles on both the importing and exporting sides that impede the transfer of environmentally sound technologies."

88. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.95, as orally revised, was adopted.

89. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.59 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Draft resolutions on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/C.2/45/L.60 and L.82)

90. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.82, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.60, and recommended it for adoption by consensus. The first line of paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.82 had been amended to read "Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to issue invitations to all States".

91. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.82, as orally amended, was adopted.

92. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.60 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

AGENDA ITEM 81: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND (continued)

Draft resolutions on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/C.2/45/L.66* and L.93)

93. The CHAIRMAN said that the programme budget implications of the two draft resolutions under consideration were contained in document A/C.2/45/L.88. Australia, Austria, Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turkey had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.66*.

94. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.93, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.66* and recommended that it should be adopted by consensus. He drew attention to the following amendments: in paragraph 2 the phrase "of the United Nations system" should be deleted; in paragraph 4 the phrase "November/December 1991" should be inserted after the phrase "September 1991"; the word "including" should be inserted before the phrase "its paper" in paragraph 15; and the word "regularly" should be inserted before the word "informed" in paragraph 16.

95. Mr. LEMERLE (France) said that although his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.93, it wished to reserve its final position in that regard pending the publication of the complete text in the official languages.

96. Miss HASSAN (Egypt) said that her delegation was pleased that a consensus had been reached on the question under consideration. It was gratifying to note the wording of paragraph 11 of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.93 concerning the membership of the Bureau.

97. Mr. UTHEIM (Norway), Mr. GATHUNGU (Kenya), Mr. BABINGTON (Australia), Mr. BOECK (Austria), Mr. BUKURU (Burundi) and Mr. BORG OLIVIER (Malta) said that they were pleased that a consensus had been achieved on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.93.

98. Mr. PETRONE (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Community, expressed satisfaction at the consensus reached on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.93. Referring to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, he pointed out that paragraph 5 of document A/C.2/45/L.88 did not constitute a directive to the Secretary-General, whose prerogatives in the appointment of staff were unaffected.

99. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.93, as orally amended, was adopted.

100. Mr. JOMAA (Tunisia) said that, although his delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.93, it wished to reserve its final position in that regard pending the publication of the draft resolution and its programme budget implications in all the official languages. Referring to paragraph 16 of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.93, he stressed the important link between the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the Preparatory Committee in the discussion of questions relating to the environment and development, including climate change. With regard to paragraph 19 of the draft resolution, he pointed out that, while non-governmental organizations could participate as observers in the negotiating process, only Member States could take part in negotiations aimed at elaborating the draft Convention.

101. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.66* was withdrawn by the sponsors.

102. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 44/207 on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/45/696).

103. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 83: EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on international debt crisis and development: enhanced international co-operation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries (A/C.2/45/L.44 and L.97)

104. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/C.97, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.44, and recommended it to the Committee for adoption by consensus.

105. Mr. LEMERLE (France) said that his delegation, while not wishing to delay the conclusion of a long and difficult negotiation process, could only agree in principle to the adoption of the draft resolution, its final approval being dependent on submission of the complete text in French.

106. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.97 was adopted.

107. Mr. KOIKE (Japan) said that his Government, which attached great importance to the problems of external indebtedness, had been encouraged by the substantial progress made in the context of the enhanced debt strategy and expected further efforts to be made by debtor countries, with support from the international community. The text of the draft resolution just adopted emphasized the importance of the national policies of debtor countries and paid due regard to international efforts in the framework of the enhanced debt strategy. His delegation was particularly pleased that the resolution stressed the need for debtor countries to be in a position to continue to benefit from official development assistance. It therefore wished to reiterate that official debt reduction should be treated in a very prudent manner.

108. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.44 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/45/L.5

109. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to defer action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/45/L.5 until the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

110. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 85: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

Draft resolutions on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/C.2/45/L.68 and L.89)

111. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.89, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.68, and recommended it for adoption by consensus.

112. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.89 was adopted.

113. Mr. HARRISON (United Kingdom) suggested that the report of the independent consultant referred to in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution just adopted should be made available in time for consideration at the next meeting, in May 1991, of the Institute's Board of Trustees.

114. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.68 was withdrawn by its sponsor.

(b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued)

Draft resolution on the United Nations University (A/C.2/45/L.70/Rev.1)

115. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the results of the informal consultations, recommended that draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.70/Rev.1 should be adopted by consensus.

116. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.70/Rev.1 was adopted.

117. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 85.

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)

Draft resolution on emergency assistance for Liberia (A/C.2/45/L.86)

118. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, said that Italy had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution. Noting that the figure 600,000 in the first preambular paragraph should be amended to read 750,000, he recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.

119. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.86, as orally revised, was adopted.

120. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Liberia) expressed his delegation's gratitude and appreciation to the Committee for its adoption of the draft resolution. The past 11 months had been a nightmare in his people's history, but the adoption of the resolution represented an overwhelming vote of support for their efforts to rebuild their nation.

121. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 86.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(c) UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (continued)

Draft resolutions on population (A/C.2/45/L.61 and L.85)

122. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.85, entitled "Population and development", based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.61, and pointed out that paragraph 6 should be renumbered as paragraph 5 (c). He recommended that the Committee adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

123. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.85, as orally revised, was adopted.

124. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) said that his delegation had joined in the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.85 because it attached great importance to all population issues. An excellent opportunity to treat those issues in a balanced manner had, however, been missed. The resolution gave undue emphasis to population assistance activities while ignoring the very real link between population issues and economic activity in the developing countries. A clear reference in the text to the relationship between population programmes and the revitalization of those countries' economic growth might perhaps be included in future resolutions on the subject.

125. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.61 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

126. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat had been working overtime, and would continue to do so, to process the documentation required for the General Assembly to take action on the reports of the Second Committee by 21 December 1990. It would be possible to process all the required documentation only if a decision was taken promptly on the one outstanding draft resolution. Otherwise the Committee might be obliged to resume meeting in January 1991.

127. Mr. CROSA (Department of Conference Services) said that, as he had explained previously, the Department of Conference Services would require at least one week to process all the reports of the Second Committee once they had been received. After the consideration of an agenda item had been concluded, the reports had to be prepared by the Committee's secretariat and authorized by the Rapporteur before they were finally placed in the hands of the Department. Since the General Assembly wished to complete its work by 21 December 1990, any delay in the submission of Second Committee documents beyond 14 December would make it extremely difficult to issue the required documentation in all languages in time for consideration by the Assembly. The Department would therefore appreciate any endeavour the Committee might make to conclude its work before that date.

The meeting rose at 1.25 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
55th meeting
held on
14 December 1990
at 5.30 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 55th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

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20 December 1990

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The meeting was called to order at 5.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued)

Draft resolution on operational activities of the United Nations system (A/C.2/45/L.75)

1. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, said that despite the sincere efforts of all participants, it had been impossible to reach agreement on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.75. The deliberations had proved fruitful, however, and it seemed that agreement would ultimately be reached. Since it involved a matter of extreme importance he suggested that the General Assembly should decide to defer consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.75 until its forty-sixth session.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision just suggested.

3. It was so decided.

4. Mr. HARRISON (United Kingdom) said that the group on operational activities had worked very hard and in a professional and friendly atmosphere. Even though no consensus had been reached, a clear understanding of the issues had emerged. General Assembly resolution 44/211 was still valid, and must be faithfully implemented.

5. Mr. KRAMER (Canada) agreed that it was important to implement General Assembly resolution 44/211 and regretted the fact that lack of time had made it impossible to reach agreement.

6. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) said that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 was at the preparatory stage. It was unfortunate that the results had so far been disappointing, but he hoped that more tangible progress towards the full implementation of that resolution would be made at the forty-six session.

7. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the following documents under agenda item 84: (a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Practices and procedures aimed at a more equitable geographical distribution of sources of procurement for technical co-operation projects", and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination thereon (documents A/44/646 and A/45/648); (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation of rural development activities of the United Nations system in three African least developed countries" and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination thereon (documents A/45/76-E/1990/12 and Add.1); (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the

(The Chairman)

report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation of the regional project RLA/79/031: Programme on joint studies on Latin American economic integration (ECIEL)", and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (documents A/45/77-E/1990/10 and Add.1); (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (document A/45/347); and (e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the operational activities of the United Nations system (documents A/45/273-E/1990/85 and Corr.1 and Add.1-5).

8. It was so decided.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 84.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECOND COMMITTEE FOR 1991-1992 (A/C.2/45/L.87/Rev.1)

10. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to two changes which had been made in document A/C.2/45/L.87/Rev.1. The report on the implementation of the resolution on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing, which was currently listed under item 2 (Development and international economic co-operation), should be listed as the last of the reports under item 2 (f) since it related more specifically to the environment.

11. Under item 7, the reference to draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.75 should be deleted and replaced with a note indicating that the draft resolution would be before the Committee at the forty-sixth session.

12. He drew attention to the second paragraph of document A/C.2/45/L.87/Rev.1 and noted that 53 reports were being requested of the Secretary-General for the following session as opposed to the 41 requested for the current one. The Second Committee had just passed a record number of resolutions. Greater efforts must be made to reduce both the number of items on the Committee's agenda and the number of reports that the Secretariat was being asked to prepare.

13. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) noted that no mention was made in document A/C.2/45/L.87/Rev.1 of the fact that his Government had agreed to host a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. He proposed and suggested that, for purposes of clarity in respect of the 1992 programme of work, it should be indicated that a report of the Conference on Environment and Development would be forthcoming.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that that would be done.

15. Mr. FALL (Senegal), referring to item 2 (g) (desertification and drought), welcomed the reference to General Assembly decision 44/437 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/103, which were especially relevant because of the

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forthcoming Conference on Environment and Development, but wondered why it had been necessary to refer to General Assembly resolution 3054 (XXVIII), which was already 17 years old.

16. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the resolution was referred to because it contained a provision explaining why a report had to be produced and thereby gave authority for the production of the report.

17. Mrs. DUEÑAS de WHIST (Ecuador) said that the full title of the Declaration referred to under item 14 should be given.

18. Mr. KABAACHI (Tunisia) said that his delegation, too, was concerned at the growing number of resolutions adopted by the Second Committee. He referred, in particular, to the proliferation of sub-items under item 2 of the Committee's draft biennial programme of work for 1991-1992 which had no direct relation to development and international economic co-operation. As a result of the Committee's unwieldy programme of work, delegations had not had sufficient time to reach a consensus on the draft resolution on operational activities of the United Nations system (A/C.2/45/L.75).

19. Mr. TRAORE (Mali) said that, at a time when real economic problems were becoming increasingly worrisome to the developing countries and when the Committee had less and less time to devote to fundamental issues, the Committee should make greater efforts to rationalize its biennial programme of work.

20. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee), replying to a comment by Mr. YENEL (Turkey), said that, in its resolution 44/236, the General Assembly had decided to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction"; hence, item 8 of the draft programme of work for 1991 was correct.

21. Mr NIÑO (Venezuela) said that the penultimate paragraph of item 2 (a) of the draft programme of work for 1991 reflected the last operative paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.55, which had been superseded by A/C.2/45/L.91; the text of that paragraph should therefore be corrected. Also under item 2 (a), in the antepenultimate paragraph of the Spanish text, the word "novedades" should be replaced by "desarrollos" in order to reflect the English and French texts.

22. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Committee would make the adjustments requested by the representative of Venezuela.

23. Mr. FALL (Senegal) asked whether the secretariat of the Committee would ever consider limiting the number of sub-items under item 2 of the Committee's draft biennial programme of work for 1991-1992.

24. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the sub-items under item 2 were, by and large, those outlined in General Assembly resolution 39/217 on the biennial programme of work for the Second Committee. However, since there had been

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a tendency to add sub-items under the items on development and international economic co-operation and on the report of the Economic and Social Council, the secretariat would reconsider the intentions of Assembly resolution 39/217. With regard to the starting date for the work of the Second Committee at its forty-sixth session, he said that, if the Committee did not begin its work until after the eighth session of UNCTAD had ended, it would have a very difficult time completing its work on time.

25. Replying to comments by Mr. SOBERNAIS (Mexico), and Miss HASSAN (Egypt), Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the UNCTAD study requested in draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.59 would appear on the list of the reports to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The report of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, listed under item 3 of the draft programme of work for 1991, would cover both the second and the third substantive sessions of that Committee.

26. The draft biennial programme of work for 1991-1992 contained in document A/C.2/45/L.87/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.

COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

27. The CHAIRMAN, after thanking the officers, members of the Committee and the Secretariat services for their co-operation, declared that the Committee had completed its work for the forty-fifth session.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.